

BEACH REPORTER

Breeze serving The Beach Cities

MANHATTAN BEACH • HERMOSA BEACH • REDONDO BEACH • EL SEGUNDO

Over 140
open houses
starting on Page 73

ilk and roll



this Sunday, Oct. 30, in the Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk, a 3.4-mile event that brings to support the Friendship Circle and other local children's education groups. The walk begins each Pier and heads to Hermosa. Later that day, have fun at the 21st annual World Famous Festival from noon to 6:30 p.m. For more information on both events, see Page 26.

(photo by Chris Miller)

BEACH

asketball coach 'own' at Costa

Joey Clarke Jr.

depending on who is telling it. But Craig Takahashi is out as head coach of the Costa Mesa basketball team after just one

ool and district faculty, Takahashi al reasons last Wednesday after- parents of many of the players, he few reasons unrelated to the sport

message. Craig used an abhorrent as used in jest," a parent speaking id. "It was out there, it was poor d, it was worth the reprimand, but really well liked."

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ot a racist. It's ridiculous. It's im- st and work in the sport of basket- Radl said.

ind Takahashi's exit is quite un- layers and parents.

REDONDO BEACH

Drug-sniffing dogs allowed to check school campuses

by Annie Lubinsky

The Redondo Beach School Board agreed to allow drug-sniffing dogs to search near school lockers and common areas on school campuses at its Oct. 25 meeting.

Nicole Wesley, principal of Redondo Union High School, said the dogs would be provided by the Redondo Beach Police Department at no cost to check common areas and lockers.

"It is not a 'gotcha,' but a deterrent," she said. "With the possibility of dogs visiting campus, students will think twice if not three times before bringing drugs to campus."

Frank DeSena, assistant superintendent, wanted to change the wording of the policy to be very specific, stating that the dogs would be permitted only to "sniff the air around lockers and common areas on district property." This revised wording was adopted by the board.

Board Presiding Officer Todd Loewenstein was against allowing dogs at schools.

"The dogs send the message 'We don't trust you,'" he said. "If you send that message, students will act like they don't deserve your trust. We are sending a very bad message to kids."

Student Board Member Brooke O'Neal said she took an informal poll of RUHS students and found that 124 "would be OK with it" 95 were against it and 61 thought

HERMOSA BEACH

Council bans smoking and polystyrene, approves bike plan and Vitality City

by Eric Michael Stitt

Local health enthusiasts and environmentalists were on an all-time high at Hermosa Beach's City Council meeting this week.

At the Oct. 25 meeting, the council conducted four public hearings that all encompassed healthy living and improving the environment. And after five and a half hours of smiles, cheers and thank-yous, the city had banned smoking, polystyrene or Styrofoam, welcomed the South Bay Bicycle Master Plan and accepted the Vitality City's livability plan.

The meeting began with a standing-room-only crowd jumping at the opportunity to ask the council to adopt the bike plan that will connect seven South Bay cities via bike lanes.

Resident George Schmeltzer said there is no way to avoid this.

"I think it's absolutely necessary to adopt this resolution, that's the way the world is moving," Schmeltzer said. "I think it's really important you move ahead."

Gary Parsons, former Hawthorne City Councilman, said he frequently rides his bicycle to Hermosa Beach and would greatly appreciate the safe bike route.

"Let's keep the cars and bikes separated," Parsons said.

Resident Julian Katz, a member of the South Bay Bicycle Coalition, said, "We've put together what we feel is a very workable plan," stating that "it's the Hermosa Beach of tomorrow."

The council couldn't have agreed more, unanimously adopting the master plan 5-0.

"This is another step for us to be sustainable," Tucker said. "This is going to be a very exciting process."

Then the council moved on to the item of banning Styrofoam food service take-out containers.

Third-grader Max Riley approached the dais, urging the councilmen to ban the product that harms marine life.

and would never quit on his family.”
While the exact reasons behind the decision may remain unclear, what is clear is the girls’ team is without a coach only weeks before the start of the season. The search for a new coach is underway, beginning internally before going outside of the district to search for potential candidates.

In Takahashi’s only year as the head coach, the Mustangs finished second in Bay League with a 19-10, 8-2 record. He was on staff as a full-time assistant since 2007 before being promoted to the head coach.

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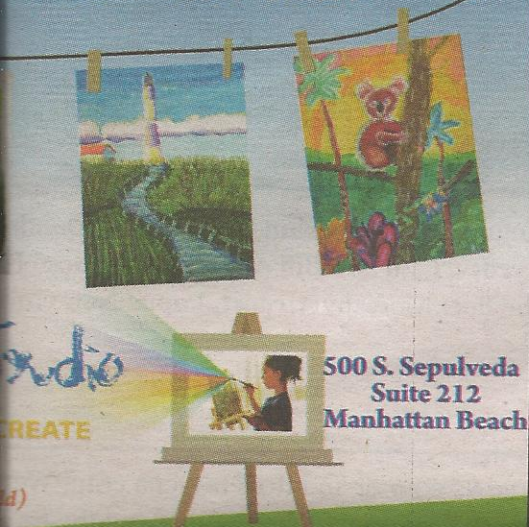
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H.B. bans, approvals

(Continued from cover)

get me started on all the plastic bags,” Riley said, after describing how the containers shred apart and enter the ocean.

His mother, Elizabeth Riley, echoed his words.

“Let’s get together and be the green idea city instead of just saying we are,” she said.

Craig Cadwallader of the Surfrider Foundation’s South Bay Chapter said this product is extremely hazardous and needs to be removed from the coast immediately.

“The damage to the environment is real,” Cadwallader said. “Get this out of the environment now.”

The council looked at three options regarding polystyrene, which were to educate restaurant owners about the negative impacts of the product, set specific targets to limit its use and then a ban if they were met, or a full-out citywide ban of polystyrene.

Former mayor George Barks acknowledged his unpopular request, but encouraged the council to go the educational route first.

“I believe in a clean environment. (You) ultimately need to do this (but) you need to do more work to educate the public,” Barks said.

Samantha Martinez of Plastic Food Service Packing Group agreed and asked the council not to ban the product, but to instead work with businesses, saying they “truly want to be part of the solution.”

But Lisa Ryder Moore, who is on the city’s Green Task Force, pushed for the majority of the council to approve the ban.

“Please pass the ban,” she said. “Do the right thing for the community. Do what the community wants. Do what’s right for the ocean.”

“I think we need to take a stand. This is a very good step with our quality of life,” Tucker said, agreeing with her.

Yet councilmen Michael DiVirgilio and Kit Bobko felt it was too forceful to instantly jump to a ban and wanted to give restaurant owners at least six months to distance themselves from Styrofoam use before banning it.

But Mayor Howard Fishman said if there is such a demand to ease the restaurant owners into phasing out Styrofoam, why were none of them at the meeting?

“If it was a problem, where are the restaurant owners? Where are the affected people, meaning the restaurants?” Fishman asked. “We need to ban polystyrene.”

They did, voting 3-2 to ban the product starting in six months.

Then the council jumped to place a ban on another health and environmental issue, outdoor smoking. The smoking ban will encompass Pier Plaza, The Strand, parks, the Greenbelt, public parking lots and all outdoor dining areas.

Holly Maynes of the National Council of Alcohol and Drug Dependence said, “This is not only a health issue, but also an environmental issue.”

Barks vehemently disagreed.

“I just think you’re going way too far,” Barks said. “It’s unbelievable.”

But Tucker challenged that, stating if it was too drastic, the council chambers would still be full.

“The restaurants aren’t here tonight to say it’s a bad idea,” Tucker said. “I don’t have a problem with it. It’s another quality of life (issue). I have no problem voting for this ordinance.”

Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Duclos said this council has consistently made clean air a priority and supported the smoking ban. The vote to outlaw smoking in outdoor dining

To wrap up an entire meeting of improving the environment and the health of residents, the council also agreed to accept the Vitality City plan, which advises the city on how to create a more livable community and improve the physical condition of its citizens.

“This is a magical night,” Cadwallader said. “This is just really special. This is really cool. You guys should be proud of what you’ve accomplished tonight.”

Schmeltzer said Vitality City encompasses everything the council voted on tonight.

“We’re really proud of what you’ve done tonight,” said Vitality City Director Joel Spoonheim.

Fishman said his ultimate goal as mayor was to push for a healthier and more environmentally friendly city and to be a part of historical meetings like this one.

“This is indeed a special evening,” Fishman said. “We’ve accomplished a great deal tonight.”

R.B. drug dogs

(Continued from cover)

“If they’re just checking the lockers, students will just put it in their backpacks,” O’Neal said.

“Kids will find ways around this,” Loewenstein added.

Board Vice President Anita Averick said that parents feel allowing the dogs on campus is a good idea.

“It gives the message that we really, truly don’t want (contraband) on school property,” she said. “We can start here and revisit this in a year. I want to see counseling for the kids using drugs to get the help they truly need.”

Board Member Drew Gamet said that programs that “go into the root cause of kids bringing drugs to school” could be more effective than dogs.

“When we get a downturn in drug-related suspensions, what did the trick?” he said. “It may be these programs.”

“And how do we measure results?” Loewenstein asked.

Board President Jane Diehl said the Beach Cities Health District could be enlisted to develop measurement tools. She also asked that the issue be revisited in a year.

The board voted 3 – 2 in favor of adopting the revised search and seizure policy and regulation.

Help The Beach Reporter celebrate Manhattan Beach’s centennial

Manhattan Beach will be celebrating its 100-year birthday in 2012, and *The Beach Reporter* plans to highlight the city’s history throughout the year.

We want to hear from you. We are looking for stories and photos that highlight the city’s varied past. Do you remember the LaMar Theater? Do you remember TaiSong’s? Joe’s Candy Cottage? Or Polliwog pond before it was a park?

Please contact Dawnya Bartsch at